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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Argentina

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/PS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

TO: USOAS - Mr. Michael Yohn
FROM: HA/HR - Patrick J. Flood
SUBJECT: The OAS Office in Buenos Aires

Human rights leaders in Argentina told me the local OAS office is of no help in processing human rights complaints. Reason: the office is run by a retired Argentine Colonel (Col. Monti), who is hardly likely to stir up the people who pay his pension and control other aspects of his life. Result: The thousands of people who want to file human rights complaints on their own behalf or on behalf of their relatives have to submit them to Washington, and the OAS's Buenos Aires office just stays out of it. (An IAHRC source confirmed the foregoing statements.)

But: under OAS rules, no field office can be run by a national of the country in which it is located. Col. Monti is technically legal, because he is only the "acting director". As there has been no real director for years, the situation clearly involves a flagrant subterfuge.

Suggested solution: a few member states should approach the Secretary General to express their deep concern about this anomaly and request that the post of permanent director be filled without further delay.

Why? An independent OAS office can be a source of moral support and encouragement to Argentine human rights victims during the period before and during the IAHRC visit and can play a useful follow-through role on the Commission's recommendations afterward.

cc: HA - Ms. Derian
HA - Mr. Schneider
HA - Mr. Salmon

GDS 05/02/85 (FLOOD, Patrick J.)

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